

6 Improve these topic sentences. Circle the topic. Choose a main idea for each topic and write a topic sentence. Then share your new sentences with a partner or small group.

- a. I have a photo of my girlfriend.
 idea: *The photo reminds me of her.*
 topic sentence: *I carry a photo of my girlfriend to remind me of her.*
- b. I have a new jacket.
 idea:
 topic sentence:
- c. The Internet is good.
 idea:
 topic sentence:
- d. My friend is nice.
 idea:
 topic sentence:
- e. I learn English at school.
 idea:
 topic sentence:

Language focus: Using *and* and *but* to join sentences

7 Work with a partner. Look at these pairs of sentences. How are they similar? How are they different? Which do you like better, and why?

- a. 1. I sent my mother a birthday card. I called her.
 2. I sent my mother a birthday card and called her.
- b. 1. I like getting flowers. I don't like getting candy.
 2. I like getting flowers, but I don't like getting candy.
- c. 1. I didn't send my brother a birthday gift. He didn't send me one.
 2. I didn't send my brother a birthday gift, and he didn't send me one.

- In each case, the sentences in 2 flow better—that is, they sound more fluent and natural.
- Sentences about the same topic can often be combined with words like *and* and *but*.
- Use *and* to join similar ideas. In 7a, the writer did two things for her mother's birthday (sent a card; called her). How are the actions in 7c similar?
- Use *but* to show contrasting ideas: good / bad, easy / difficult, positive / negative. What is the contrast in 7b?

8 Look again at the paragraph on page 13, *A Birthday Gift*. Underline the sentences joined by *and* and *but*.